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September 27, 2001

For Immediate Release:

GROUNDBREAKING SLATED FOR EIU/COLES COUNTY HABITAT HOUSE

MATTOON – When ground is broken Sunday (Sept. 30) for Coles County's newest Habitat for Humanity home, dreams years in the making officially will have come true.

Working cooperatively, the Eastern Illinois University and Coles County chapters of HFH will begin work on a home to be located at 1108 N. Tenth Street in Mattoon. The new building will be home to 34-year-old Theresa Wolfe and her seven children, ages 12, 10, 8, 4, 3 (twins) and 2.

The public is invited to attend the groundbreaking, scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.

For Eastern's chapter of Habitat for Humanity, sponsored through the Newman Catholic Center, the event promises to be especially meaningful. According to Holly Walters, advisor for the campus chapter, student members began conducting fund-raisers and awareness events nearly five years ago with the hope of raising enough money to co-sponsor a house.

Earlier this year, the group surpassed its goal of \$20,000 -- nearly half of the \$45,000 needed to make the project happen -- and, on March 20, 2001, signed an agreement with the Coles County Habitat for Humanity to construct "The House that EIU Built."

The county organization has completed 11 houses thus far through the Habitat for Humanity program.

In addition to their monetary contribution, campus volunteers will actively work on the

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## HABITAT GROUNDBREAKING

construction of the home until its completion. (A tentative date of February has been set.) In addition to HFH chapter members, the effort will include volunteers from other student organizations and campus departments, as well.

And on Saturday, Oct. 13, as part of Eastern's Homecoming 2001 activities, EIU alumni will roll up their sleeves and contribute their time and money to the effort, too. In addition to their pledge to work, participants will donate \$30, which includes a catered lunch and a t-shirt. (Alumni wishing to sign up for the day's build should contact Walters at [hollywalters@eiu-newman.org](mailto:hollywalters@eiu-newman.org) or (217) 348-0230.)

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry which builds simple and affordable houses in partnership with homeowner families in need of decent shelter. Costs for the homes are kept low by financial donations, volunteer labor and donations of land and building materials.

Eventual occupants of the home are not given the home free-of-charge; they do, in fact, pay for the home via low-interest/no-interest loans and through what is known as "sweat equity" hours – hours in which the family agrees to work on the home.